CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MOSS FAMILIES NECKERACEAE AND PTEROBRYACEAE OF BHUTAN

MATЕРИАЛЫ К ФЛОРЕ МХОВ БУТАНА: СЕМЕЙСТВА NECKERACEAE И PTEROBRYACEAE

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Abstract

Three species previously thought to be Chinese endemics from the easternmost Himalayas are reported from Bhutan: Shevockia inunctocarpa Enroth & M.C. Ji and Taiwanobryum yunnanense (Enroth) Enroth comb. nov. of the Neckeraceae, and Calyptothecium acostatum J.X. Luo of the Pterobryaceae. The latter, originally described from Xizang, is also reported from Yunnan, China. Additionally, Noguchiodendron sphaerocarpum (Nog.) Ninh & Pócs is reported for the second time (since 1971) from Bhutan.

KEYWORDS: Himalayan mosses, distribution, endemics

INTRODUCTION

For taxonomic studies of the Neckeraceae in Asia, the first author was sent a batch of specimens collected mainly by Prof. G. Miehe (Marburg, Germany) in Bhutan and Xizang, China in 1998–2000. The bryoflora of the Himalayan region generally is still quite poorly known, although it is one of the hotspots of bryophyte diversity and endemism (e.g. Tan & Pócs, 2000). Ongoing inventory efforts by the second author and colleagues Wenzhang Ma (KUN) and David Long (E) continue to document the high species diversity in the easternmost Himalayas.

A checklist of the mosses of Bhutan (Long, 1994; Long & Thomas, 2017) presents a total of 156 genera and 282 species. According to those authors, Bhutan is probably one of the bryologically richest Himalayan countries yet one of the least well-known and few bryologists have had the opportunity to work in the country. The collections reported here come from cool-temperate forests with e.g. Acer, Fagus, Quercus, Pinus and Tsuga as prominent tree genera (see Fang et al., 1996).

NECKERACEAE

Noguchiodendron sphaerocarpum (Nog.) Ninh & Pócs (Fig. 1)

Specimens examined: Bhutan. Tashigang, Tashiyangtse, W of Risum Gompa, evergreen oak forest on SW-facing slope, grazed in winter, 27°42'N 91°27'E, 2600 m a.s.l., 7.VI.2000, G. & S. Miehe 00-84-40 (H).

Noguchiodendron sphaerocarpum is the single representative of its genus. It was segregated from Homalioidendron M. Fleisch. on morphological grounds (Ninh & Pócs, 1981) and molecular data supports its generic status distinct from Homalioidendron s. str. (Olsson et al., 2016). Its morphological distinctions were discussed by Ma & Shevock (2015) and it has since been collected from several additional counties in Yunnan.

This species was previously reported from Bhutan (Tashiling) by Noguchi (1971, as Homalioidendron sphaerocarpum Nog.), but to our knowledge there are no subsequent records from the country. The Tashiling specimens came from 2400–2450 m a.s.l. and the specimens reported here from eastern Bhutan were collected at 2600 m a.s.l.
Noguchiodendron sphaerocarpum is distributed in the general Himalayan region, from Nepal through Himalayan India and Bhutan to Yunnan in China, Myanmar and down to northern Thailand (Tanaka et al., 2003; Ma & Shevock, 2015; present report). It was reported from Western Ghats (Tamil Nadu, as Homaliodendron sphaerocarpum) by Daniels & Daniel (2007), but the record needs verification. Some of the illustrations in that paper appear to have been copied or modified from Gangulee (1976: p. 1422, fig. 702).


Shevockia inunctocarpa Enroth & M.C. Ji


This genus currently with a single species was described from the Gaoligongshan Range in Yunnan, China, by Enroth & Ji (2006). Shevockia inunctocarpa is currently known from Fu-gong and Gong-shan counties in Yunnan. Its generic status in the Pinnatella clade of the Neckeraeae is supported by molecular data (Olsson et al., 2010). The type specimen from Yunnan was collected at 2700 m a.s.l. and the Bhutan specimen at 3260 m a.s.l.

The Bhutan specimen reported here is not in good condition and it lacks sporophytes. However, the characteristically shaggy habit as well as the complanate and asymmetric, curved leaves, plicate in their basal parts and with a costa mostly reaching to midleaf, are typical of Shevockia, and even more so are the spreading stipe leaves with recurved margins and – to our knowledge unique in the Neckeraeae – rhizoidal tomentum among the stipe leaves.


Taiwanobryum yunnanense (Enroth) Enroth, comb. nov. (Fig. 2). Basionym: Neckera yunnanensis Enroth, Hikobia 12: 3. fig. 2. 1996.
Contributions to the moss families Neckeraceae and Pterobryaceae of Bhutan


The new combination is based on a phylogenetic analysis (to be published in a forthcoming paper by the first author and colleagues) and on morphology.

Taiwano-bryum yunnanense resembles the more widespread T. crenulatum (Harv.) S. Olsson, Enroth & D. Quandt, but has clearly less distinct alar cells, non-decurrent leaf bases and mostly more strongly serrate leaf apices (Enroth, 1996; Wu, 2011a).

Taiwano-bryum yunnanense was known only from Yunnan (Lu-shui, Teng-chong and Gong-shan counties) of the Gaoligongshan Range. Based on specimens at H, it grows between 1700–2700 m a.s.l., and the seven specimens from Bhutan were collected at 2500–2630 m a.s.l. In China it grows on hardwood trunks. The Bhutanese specimens mostly lack data on the substrate, but on the labels the habitats are described as hardwood or mixed hardwood-conifer forests and two of the specimens were epiphytes.


PTEROBRYACEAE

Calyptothecium acostatum J.X. Luo (Fig. 3)


Calyptothecium acostatum was described from eastern Xizang (Luo, 1983), but collections obtained since 2005 extend its distribution southward to the Gaoligongshan portion of the Hengduan Mountains in NW Yunnan (https://www.tropicos.org/name/35112411). The species is easily distinguished by the very large basal auricles in the leaves, and by the very weak or (mostly) absent costa (Yu & He, 2011). The Xizang type material was collected on tree trunks at 2300–2400 m a.s.l., and
the Yunnan material ranges between 1900 and 2400 m a.s.l. The Bhutan specimens reported here occur between 2410 and 2540 m a.s.l. Two of the specimens lack information on the substrate, but one is described as “beard mosses (lower branches)”. Illustrations: Lou 1983: p. 225, figs. 10–12; Yu & He, 2011: p. 218, pl. 336, figs. 1–3.

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